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Foreign Crops and MARKETS

VOLUME 55 NUMBER 26

WORLD FLAXSEED PRODUCTION (Page 442)

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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

DECEMBER 29, 1947

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U. S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

Issued by the OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

LATE NEWS

Negotiations by the Hungarian Government were reported to be under way in November to procure some 3,200 bales of cotton (500-pound equivalents) from Egypt and 23,000 bales from the Soviet Union. Negotiations were also proceeding for the import of rayon from Italy in exchange for cattle. Hungarian cotton consumption in 1946-47 was estimated to be about 80,000 bales, compared with a prewar peak rate of about 120,000 bales a year.

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Vegetable plantings in West Coast areas of Mexico were damaged by frost on the night of December 11. Preliminary reports indicate that the greatest damage occurred in the Huatabampo district of Sonora and that the loss was substantial in the Bamoa and Los Mochis districts of Sinaloa. Complete details are lacking, but the early reports indicate that rather widespread killing of vines in the Huatabampo area will reduce the production for the season. About 80 percent of the Sonora crop is grown in the Huatabampo area.

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WORLD FLAXSEED PRODUCTION REVISED DOWNWARD

World flaxseed production, estimated at 125.6 million bushels, is somewhat smaller than anticipated earlier in the season but 19 percent larger than the 1946 outturn. Production in most of the North American areas except India is above last year, but present indications are that South American countries planted smaller acreages than in 1946.

Canadian flaxseed production for 1947 is 11.5 million bushels, 80 percent greater than a year ago and seven times the 1935-39 average. The current increase is the result of expanded acreage, and a slightly higher yield per acre.

Producers are guaranteed $5.00 per bushel for No. 1 C. W. seed, basis in store Fort William/Port Arthur or Vancouver during the 1947-48 season (August-July). Other grades range from $4.28 to $4.95 per bushel. Between August 1 and December 4, approximately 9 million bushels of flaxseed were delivered from farms in Western Canada compared with 4.7 million in the same period of 1946. Flaxseed remains under price and export control.

Although a definite goal has not been established, it is expected that about 1.5 million acres will be planted to flaxseed in 1948 since growers are apparently satisfied with returns from the current crop.

Mexico's 1947 flaxseed production, placed at 866,000 bushels, is 10 percent greater than last year's and the largest crop that country has produced, according to the latest official revisions.

During January-August 1947, flaxseed exports amounted to 265,000 bushels, all to the United States, and linseed oil shipments totaled 5.7 million pounds (equivalent to 300,000 bushels of seed). The United States received 3.6 million pounds, the Netherlands 1.3 million, Sweden 490,000 and France 283,000.

The outlook is favorable for an increase in 1948 flaxseed production. Reports from Sonora indicate that if present planting intentions are carried out and if weather conditions are favorable, production may reach 800,000 bushels. In the Mexicali Valley a much larger area is also expected to be planted to flaxseed. In view of the impossibility of exporting alfalfa to the United States as a result of the foot-and-mouth restrictions, a portion of the areas formerly planted to that crop may be devoted to flaxseed.

The United States flaxseed crop, estimated at approximately 40 million bushels places this country first as a flaxseed producer in 1947. This year's outturn resulted from the third largest acreage on record and the highest yield per acre since 1915.

The 1948 flaxseed goal is 4.3 million acres, approximately the same as this year's planted acreage. Prices will be supported at $6.00 per bushel, Minneapolis basis, U. S. No. 1 grade.

(Continued on Page 445; table follows)

FLAXSEED: Acreage, yield per acre, and production in specified areas, year of harvest, average 1935-39, annual 1944-47 a/

Continent and country	Harvested acreage					Yield per acre		Production				
	Average 1935-39	1944	1945	1946	1947 b/	Average 1935-39	1947	Average 1935-39	1944	1945	1946	1947 b/
	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	1,000 acres	Bushels	Bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels	1,000 bushels
North America:												
Canada	307	1,323	1,059	841	1,472	4.9	7.8	1,508	9,668	7,593	6,403	11,541
Mexico	16	56	65	73	-	6.9	-	111	555	703	789	866
United States	1,451	2,610	3,785	2,430	4,063	7.6	9.8	10,991	21,665	34,557	22,962	39,980
Total North America c/	1,800	4,000	5,000	3,400	5,700	-	-	12,700	31,900	43,000	30,200	52,400
Europe:												
Austria d/	5	14	7	5	-	7.1	-	36	144	-	40	-
Belgium d/	75	26	60	78	69	8.9	7.2	664	189	548	617	504
Bulgaria d/	8	29	13	4	7	6.5	8.9	52	160	75	13	-
Czechoslovakia d/	e/ 35	-	-	-	49	6.9	-	e/ 243	-	-	-	-
Finland d/ f/	9	23	25	-	-	-	-	-	-	113	-	-
France d/	92	104	93	81	88	5.0	4.5	464	512	433	394	400
Germany d/	65	110	-	-	-	10.7	-	696	1,176	-	-	-
Hungary	19	-	5	8	18	14.9	8.1	283	-	43	94	148
Italy	16 d/	54 d/	32 d/	32	-	12.6	-	202	320	172	248	787
Netherlands d/	42	29	23	31	33	13.0	11.6	546	300	245	314	378
Poland d/	158	-	-	55	100	10.0	4.0	e/ 1,578	-	-	225	400
Rumania d/	42	-	-	-	-	6.5	-	275	-	-	-	-
Sweden	-	30	38	22	38	-	18.7	-	548	764	360	709
United Kingdom	e/ 2	14	10	11	38	-	10.0	-	280	240	100	380
Yugoslavia d/	33	-	-	-	-	1.6	-	52	-	-	-	-
Total Europe (excluding U.S.S.R.) c/	650	800	650	600	700	-	-	5,200	6,100	4,600	3,550	5,000
U.S.S.R. (Europe and Asia) d/	e/ 6,434	-	-	2,656	3,353	5.1	4.5	e/ 32,115	-	-	11,257	15,230
Asia:												
Turkey d/	48	35	37	48	63	7.3	7.4	349	408	139	306	466
India g/ h/	3,885	3,533	3,465	3,334	3,288	4.7	4.2	18,096	15,240	15,680	14,520	13,960
Japan d/	50	98	95	67	-	4.2	-	211	275	420	-	-
Total Asia (excluding U.S.S.R. and China c/	4,100	3,900	3,850	3,700	3,650	-	-	19,000	16,200	16,600	15,450	15,250

South America:												
Argentine	6,077	3,098	3,439	3,798	3,385	9.8	-	59,571	30,967	37,955	40,706	-
Chile d/	i/ 5	15	12	13	-	8.2	-	i/ 37	137	151	170	-
Uruguay	407	403	592	300	-	9.6	-	3,894	4,059	5,159	2,843	-
Total South America c/	6,600	4,000	4,200	4,300	3,950	-	-	64,200	35,900	44,000	44,500	37,000
Africa:												
Egypt d/	7	30	7	4	11	12.4	12.7	87	323	77	43	134
French Morocco	51	59	101	15	20	7.1	-	362	303	172	158	-
Total Africa c/	65	100	120	50	50	-	-	500	660	280	230	350
Oceania:												
New Zealand	1	4	10	14	20	14.2	-	17 j/	130 j/	173	-	-
Total Oceania c/	3	65	70	75	85	-	-	24	150	200	250	350
Total world (excluding China)	19,700	14,950	16,150	14,800	17,600	-	-	133,750	99,150	117,750	105,450	125,600

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research, or other information. Prewar estimates for countries having changed boundaries have been adjusted to conform to present boundaries.

a/ Harvests of the Northern Hemisphere countries are combined with those of the Southern Hemisphere which immediately follow; thus the crop harvested in the Northern Hemisphere countries in 1946 is combined with the Southern Hemisphere harvest which began late in 1946 and ended early in 1947.

b/ Preliminary.

c/ Includes estimates for the above countries for which data are not available and for minor producing countries.

d/ Acreage includes area for fiber.

e/ Average of less than 5 years.

f/ Flax and hemp.

g/ Sown area.

h/ Officially reported figures plus Indian official estimates for unreported tracts except in the years 1944-47 inclusive, when no estimates for unreported tracts were available.

i/ 1935 only.

j/ Includes seed from fiber flax.

WORLD FLAXSEED PRODUCTION (Continued from Page 442)

European flaxseed production, estimated at 5 million bushels, is 40 percent greater than in 1946 and compares favorably with the 1935-39 average of 5.2 million. Information available shows increases in all countries except Belgium.

There has been no change in the 1947 flaxseed estimate of 15.2 million bushels for the Soviet Union.

India harvested 14.0 million bushels of flaxseed from 3.3 million acres. Both area and production are much below average for that country.

So far no information is available regarding prospects for 1947-48 although flaxseed planting (for harvest in early 1948) has probably been completed.

Turkey produced 466,000 bushels of flaxseed in 1947 compared with a revised estimate of 306,000 last season, and 139,000 in 1945. The expansion is attributed to two reasons. A substantial demand on the part of foreign buyers for seed from the 1946 harvest enabled producers to sell at higher prices and the failure of fall planted wheat in some regions, as a result of unfavorable weather, encouraged farmers to substitute flax in the following spring.

Argentina is expected to report another small flaxseed harvest. Acreage, estimated at 3.4 million acres, is 11 percent less than in 1946, and 44 percent less than the 1935-39 average. The official buying price for flaxseed from the 1947 crop (harvested in December) is 30 pesos per 100 kilograms ($2.27 per bushel), delivered Buenos Aires. This price is unchanged from last season. The Government is expected to continue the practice of crushing seed within the country and exporting linseed oil, cake and meal, at a profitable price.

Uruguay planted 400,000 acres to flaxseed, according to the first official estimate for 1947. Harvesting is later than usual and will continue into 1948 because of reseeding after locust attacks. Based on average yield, a harvest of 4 million bushels should be realized.

Estimates for the flaxseed producing countries in Africa and Oceania are unchanged from the figures reported in October, which were 350,000 bushels for both areas.

This is one of a series of regularly scheduled reports on world agricultural production approved by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations Committee on Foreign Crop and Livestock Statistics. For this report the Committee was composed of C. M. Purces, Acting Chairman, Regina H. Boyle, Helen Francis and Constance Farnworth.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

WORLD RICE EXPORT SUPPLIES SLIGHTLY LARGER 1/

The estimated exportable supplies from the world rice harvest of 1947-48 (August-July) show a moderate increase over those of the preceding year. Exports, however, are expected to be only one-third of the prewar average. The total surplus from exporting countries of the world is estimated between 5,500 and 6,000 million pounds of milled rice, compared with estimated exports of 5,000 million pounds during 1947, and with 17,600 million pounds during the prewar (1936-40) average.

The largest increase is in Burma, the world's most important exporter of rice. A good crop is being harvested and the surplus for export during 1948 from the December 1947 harvest is estimated between 2,500 and 3,000 million pounds. Although substantial gains have been achieved in the 2 years since the war ended, the exportable surplus is only about 40 percent of the prewar average.

Supplies in Siam are estimated to be about the same as those of last year, when 880 million pounds were reported available for export. Little rice is expected to be forthcoming from French Indochina, which formerly exported nearly 20 percent of the world's rice trade.

RICE (MILLED): World net trade, by continents, averages 1926-40,
annual 1941, 1945 and 1946
(+indicates net exports, - indicates net imports)

Continent	Average 1926-1930	Average 1931-1935	Average 1936-1940	1941	1943a/	1946a/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
WESTERN HEMISPHERE:						
North America	-524	-443	-440	-126	-14	+294
South America	-316	-15	-46	+26	+346	+640
Total West. Hemisphere	-840	-458	-486	-100	+332	+934
ASIA	+2,703	+3,974	+4,444	+1,910	-41	-620
EUROPE	-1,591	-2,340	-2,553	-608	-112	-62
AFRICA	-432	-376	-410	-165	+210	+230

Compiled in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations from official sources and International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics.

a/ Preliminary.

1/ A more extensive statement can be obtained from the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations.

RICE: (Milled): Net exports from specified countries of export, averages 1931-40, annual 1941, and 1945 to 1947
(+ indicates imports exceed exports)

Continent and country	Average 1931-1935	Average 1936-1940	1941	1945 a/	1946 a/	1947 Prel. est.
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
WESTERN HEMISPHERE:						
North America:						
Dominican Republic	+	+	9	10	8	1
Mexico	17	19	16	0	+	20
United States	130	215	439	509	773	850
Total b/	147	237	469	520	800	880
South America:						
Brazil	110	83	29	191	c/ 400	c/ 325
British Guiana	48	34	20	57	51	65
Chile	+	+	9	93	78	6
Ecuador	22	26	47	65	148	65
Total b/	184	159	111	412	700	475
Total W. Hemis. b/	331	396	580	932	1,500	1,355
ASIA:						
Iran	85	57	62	90	132	125
Burma	6,985	6,614	d/6,983	218	937	1,900
Formosa[a]	1,278	1,418	628	0	0	0
French Indochina	2,878	3,221	2,067	71	217	190
Korea	2,603	2,122	1,249	0	0	0
Siam	3,298	3,126	2,430	430	989	880
Total b/	17,135	16,561	13,440	809	2,280	3,100
EUROPE:						
Italy	331	336	239	0	0	0
Spain	70	+	+	e/ 8	e/ 13	+
Total b/	401	339	242	8	13	13
AFRICA:						
Angola	1	3	5	5	9	4
Egypt	145	263	138	300	322	440
Madagascar	+	12	18	26	12	f/
Tanganyika	11	21	39	5	f/	f/
Total b/	164	311	355	350	370	475
OCEANIA:						
Australia	12	25	25	58	g/ 56	30
Est. world total	18,043	17,632	14,640	2,160	4,220	5,000

Compiled in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations from official sources and International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics.

a/ Preliminary official figures. b/ Net exports from exporting countries only, and should not be considered as net exports of the Continents. c/ Estimate. d/ January-November. e/ To Spanish African territory. f/ Unavailable. g/ July-June 1945-46.

Note: Milled rice trade in this report includes milled, brokens, semi-milled unconverted, and rough rice in terms of milled. For countries of Asia and Africa, rough rice is converted to milled at 70 percent, and for other countries at 65 percent.

In North America, the exportable supplies of the United States and Mexico exceed those of a year ago. Whether the surplus from the record United States crop is exported depends on the extent to which paying markets are available. A large crop in Mexico places rice on the export market for the first time in five years.

The total export supplies available from South America are expected to be less than those of the preceding year, primarily because of reduced production in Brazil. Those of British Guiana appear to be about the same as the amount exported in 1947. Chile's rice acreage is somewhat larger, and if good yields are harvested, the ban on exports which has existed during most of 1947 may be lifted. Exports approaching the record of nearly 100 million pounds in 1945, however, may not be expected. It is too early to predict Ecuador's acreage, but some stocks may be carried over from the 1947 crop, as exports have been held up pending sale arrangements to foreign markets.

In Africa, Egypt harvested a record crop from a record acreage. As a result supplies are estimated in the neighborhood of 650 million pounds, compared with the corresponding estimate of 440 million from production a year earlier. Although a large crop has been reported in Madagascar, indications are that rice may not be exported from that country in 1948.

For the first time since the war, rice may be exported from Italy. Some rice may be exported in return for wheat.

World rice supplies continue to be subject to allocation by the International Emergency Food Committee. The greatest import demand for rice in 1948 is in Asia, where production has not yet fully recovered since the war. For many years, that Continent was the only surplus area of the world. At the present time Europe is the only other Continent having a deficit. The Continents of North America, South America, and Africa all have relatively small surpluses.

RICE (MILLED): Net imports into specified countries of import, averages 1926-40, annual 1941, 1945 and 1946
(+ indicates exports exceed imports)

Continent and country	Acreage			1941	1945 a/	1946 a/
	1926-1930	1931-1935	1936-1940			
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
WESTERN HEMISPHERE:						
North America:						
Canada	42	46	48	48	39	39
Panama	17	14	17	8	11	8
British West Indies	78	97	118	113	61	b/
Cuba	464	359	445	398	384	330
French West Indies	18	24	22	11	b/	b/
Total c/	709	590	677	595	534	506
South America:						
Argentina	140	88	52	8	+	+
Bolivia	10	4	18	27	24	25
Colombia	97	33	30	d/	+	+
Peru	50	7	45	5	28	7
Venezuela	27	25	33	43	12	b/
Total c/	391	199	205	85	66	60
Total W. Hemisphere c/	1,100	789	882	680	600	566

-continued-

Continued -
RICE (Milled): Net imports into specified countries of import, averages 1926-40, annual 1941, 1945 and 1946
(* indicates exports exceed imports)

Continent and country	Average 1926-1930	Average 1931-1935	Average 1936-1940	1941	1945 a/	1946 a/
	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds	Million pounds
ASIA:						
British Borneo	101	92	121	b/	b/	29
British India	e/	3,410	3,105	1,602	f/ 65	615
Ceylon	1,069	1,068	1,208	1,225	401	570
China	2,212	2,148	821	1,971	b/	435
HongKong	b/	320	472	309	15	181
Japan	3,108	3,843	3,891	4,662	b/	0
Malayan Union	1,214	1,030	1,558	1,217	g/ 216	555
Netherland Indies	1,312	877	425	b/	b/	410
Philippine Islands	106	21	130	27	h/ 32	258
Portuguese India	76	95	55	52	18	b/
Total c/	9,651	13,161	12,117	11,528	850	2,900
EUROPE:						
Belgium	97	137	170	1	11	1
Czechoslovakia	109	130	85	3	0	1
France	380	861	1,208	62	d/	10
Germany	456	604	445)	178	b/	b/
Austria	60	66	i/ 62)			
Greece	57	53	64	27	11	28
Hungary	52	60	43	26	0	0
Netherlands	172	166	176	d/	0	0
Poland	134	87	i/ 73	b/	2	d/
Portugal	102	65	16	8	10	15
Rumania	68	62	47	10	9	b/
Sweden	30	30	31	0	0	d/
Switzerland	42	47	59	22	15	d/
United Kingdom	240	246	299	399	56	17
Total c/	2,152	2,741	2,892	850	120	75
U.S.S.R.	117	82	92	b/	b/	b/
AFRICA:						
Algeria	14	24	64	19	2	b/
Gold Coast	25	21	25	4	d/	0
Mauritius	124	128	123	121	11	b/
Reunion	44	64	67	38	18	b/
Tunisia	3	4	i/ 72	b/	b/	b/
Union of South Africa	90	106	139	165	56	b/
Zanzibar	41	38	39	29	b/	b/
Total c/	518	540	721	520	140	j/ 140
Oceania total	65	64	96	80	j/ 45	j/ 55
Est. world total	13,603	17,377	16,800	13,738	1,840	3,800

Compiled in the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations from official sources and International Yearbook of Agricultural Statistics.

a/ Preliminary. b/ Unavailable. c/ Net imports into importing countries only, and should not be considered as net imports of the Continents. d/ Less than 500,000 pounds. e/ During this period Burma was a part of India, inter-trade is not available, and therefore rice trade is included in Indian net exports. f/ Sea-borne trade only. g/ October-December. h/ November-December. i/ Less than 5-year average. j/ Estimated.

(Continued on Page 454)

COTTON

JAPANESE PURCHASE OF INDIAN COTTON ANNOUNCED

The terms of a contract arrangement by which the Japanese Government's official Board of Trade has made its first purchase of cotton from the Indian Government have been announced at SCAP Headquarters in Tokyo.

The agreement calls for 170,000 bales of 400 pounds (equal to about 136,000 bales of 500 pounds) of which the first shipment of 29,857 bales had arrived by October 29, the date of the announcement. India will receive payment for the raw cotton in the form of shipments of Japanese products, or in sterling. Japanese trade officials already are planning the shipment of a large quantity of rayon yarn to India as partial payment for the cotton. India also has indicated an interest in buying raw silk and cotton, rayon, wool, and silk fabrics, as well as textile machinery and many other Japanese commodities.

Until now all of Japan's postwar imports of raw cotton have been received from the United States as part of a program whereby the U. S. Department of Agriculture will have shipped approximately 1,250,000 bales of raw cotton (500 pounds to the bale) and cotton waste to Japan by the end of 1947. This will be manufactured into textiles, a substantial portion of which will be exported to pay for the cotton.

Japanese exports, which were extensive before the war, have been limited in the postwar period to shipments of cotton textiles and 100 silk and rayon looms. These textile exports include 1,000,000 pounds of Japanese cotton yarn from a total contract to supply India 8,000,000 pounds, and 16,600,000 yards of cotton fabrics from a total contract for approximately 60,000,000.

In the prewar period Japan was India's most important buyer of cotton. India was Japan's second largest customer. Japan's prewar exports to India included raw silk, various types of textiles and their manufactures, rubber products, glass and glass manufactures, machinery (such as textile machines and bicyles), ceramics and chemicals.

(Continued on Page 455)

FATS AND OILS

UNITED STATES FATS AND OILS IMPORTS UP; EXPORTS DECREASE

United States imports of principal vegetable oils and oilseeds (in terms of oil) totaled 1,095 million pounds during January-October, 71 percent larger than in the same months of 1946, but still smaller than in prewar years.

Copra (as oil) arrivals were more than double those of last year and exceeded the 1935-39 average (12 months) by a sizeable margin. In prewar years, however, the United States imported larger quantities of coconut oil than copra. Babassu kernels, babassu oil, and flaxseed registered declines compared with the corresponding 10 months of 1946.

January-October exports of the more important fats and oils (in terms of oil) amounted to 545.9 million pounds as against 586.0 million in the corresponding months of last year, and 241.1 million during 1935-39. Lard shipments were down more than a million pounds. Cooking fats, oleomargine, and edible tallow were also smaller than in 1946. Peanut exports were more than four times, and inedible tallow eight times those of a year ago.

UNITED STATES: Imports a/ of specified oils and oilseeds, January-October 1947, with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1946	January-October 1946	January-October 1947
Babassu kernels....	1,000 lbs.	b/	39.463	39,402	22,013
Babassu oil........	" "	c/ 346	2,314	2,314	1,523
Castor-beans.......	" "	132,924	226,295	187,246	209,055
Castor oil.....	" "	226	6,450	4 251	6,595
Flaxseed...........	" bu.	18,470	3,394	3,325	280
Linseed oil........	" lbs.	713	94,405	47,220	117,325
Copra..............	Short tons	230,000	394,696	257,432	524,610
Coconut oil........	1,000 lbs.	348,715	2,353	1,974	17,523
Oiticica oil.......	" "	c/ 7,673	22,593	18,450	8,071
Olive oil:					
Edible...........	" "	62,811	12,660	7,501	9,345
Inedible.........	" "	35,448	103	89	227
Palm oil.	" "	321,482	37,850	28,092	50,250
Sesame seed........	" "	58,425	4,891	4,538	9,110
Tea Seed oil.......	" "	13,159	88	88	6,130
Tucum kernels......	" "	d/ 9,810	12,709	12,709	16,887
Tung oil...........	" "	123,190	36,207	24,518	91,749

Compiled from official sources.
a/ Imports for consumption. b/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation. c/ Average of less than 5 years. d/ 1939 only.

UNITED STATES: Exports of specified fats, oils and oilseeds, January-October, 1947 with comparisons

Commodity	Unit	Average 1935-39	1946	January-October 1946	January-October 1947
Soybeans	1,000 bu.	a/ 4,793	2,906	945	1,145
Soybean oil:					
Refined	" lbs.	6,467	72,583	61,312	27,873
Crude	" "		13,228	6,496	43,578
Coconut oil:					
Refined	" "	3,789	935	28	3,582
Crude	" "	10,442	47,366	46,835	47,704
Cottonseed oil:					
Refined	" "	4,793	5,857	3,294	3,946
Crude	" "	1,515	244	243	84
Linseed oil	" "	1,280	1,625	1,491	2,891
Peanuts:					
Shelled	" "	b/ 452	61,043	30,724	133,049
Not shelled	" "		7,066	4,415	14,632
Cooking fats	" "	2,111	11,424	10,388	2,936
Lard	" "	165,636	430,682	393,514	282,534
Oleomargarine	" "	180	50,483	30,962	16,461
Tallow:					
Edible	" "	b/ 1,651	4,151	4,033	564
Inedible	"		6,472	5,384	44,991

Compiled from official sources.
a/ Average of less than 5 years.
b/ Not separately classified in Foreign Commerce and Navigation.

CORRECTION

In the article entitled "No Change in Canadian Field Crop Acreage Goal for 1948", on page 439 of Foreign Crops and Markets of December 22, 1947, it was stated that the price Britain would pay for Canadian wheat would be increased as of January 1, 1948 from $1.55 to $2.00 per bushel. It should have read "....as of August 1, 1948."

TROPICAL PRODUCTS

BELGIAN CONGO INCREASES COFFEE PRODUCTION

The 1947-48 coffee crop in the Belgian Congo and Ruanda-Urundi is estimated at 550,000 bags of which about 333,000 bags will be Robusta Coffee and 217,000 bags Arabica. This would be the largest crop in the history of the Congo. It compares with the combined 1946-47 production for the two areas of 521,000 bags and the prewar (1935-39) average of 320,000 bags. About 25,000 bags are consumed locally, and the remainder of the crop is exported. Most of the coffee is harvested from November through April.

Belgium is the principal market for the Congo's Robusta coffee and doubtless will remain so as long as the shortage of dollar exchange continues. The improvement in the quality of Robusta coffee also is causing Belgians to look upon its importation with greater favor than before the war. The United States has increased its takings of Arabica purchasing about 77,000 bags during the first ten months of 1947. The British Ministry of Food has contracted to purchase one half the production of Arabica in the Province of Kivu for the next five years, or about 25,000 bags annually. During the first six months of 1947 the Belgian Congo, including Ruanda Urundi, exported 259,183 bags of coffee.

The number of producing trees in the Congo and Ruanda-Urundi is placed at 81 million occupying about 180,000 acres. About 43 million are of the Arabica species and the remainder Robusta. The Arabica coffee produced in the Congo is said to be among the world's finest, comparing favorably with Mocha, Abyssinian and high grade Colombian and Central American coffees. The cultivation of Robusta coffee has been favored in the past, because it grows well in low, warm areas; has high resistance to disease; and yields heavier than Arabica. At present the emphasis is on increasing production of Arabica which is more in demand on world markets. In Ruanda-Urundi there are large areas suitable for coffee cultivation now used for grazing purposes. The higher prices paid and the larger quantity of trade goods now available are stimulating the natives to produce as much coffee as possible. All land suitable for coffee growing in Kivu Province, about 37,000 acres, probably will be utilized in a year or two. The present acreage is placed at 31,000 acres.

Efforts are being made also to improve the quality of Congo coffees, especially the Arabica. Classification, grading, and packing are under government supervision. All Arabica coffee for export must carry a certificate of type and quality.

TOBACCO

BAHIA TOBACCO CROP EQUALS LAST YEAR'S

The 1947-48 tobacco crop in the State of Bahia, Brazil, is placed at about 45 million pounds, or approximately equal to the 1946-47 outturn. Favorable weather conditions during the month of October were too late to guarantee a good quality crop, according to a report from the American Consulate at Bahia.

For the 1946-47 crop, average prices received by farmers ranged between 12 cents to 16 cents per pound, compared with a range of 9 cents to 14 cents for the 1945-46 outturn. In 1947, the F.O.B. price for shipments to Spain, the principal customer, ranged from 19 cents to 21 cents per pound.

During the first ten months of 1947 exports of Bahia leaf totaled 39 million pounds -- a sharp reduction from the 75 million pounds exported during the corresponding period of 1946. This year Spain, with 9 million pounds, was the ranking purchaser of Bahia leaf. Argentina took 8 million, and France 6 million. Italy, the Netherlands and Belgium also purchased considerable quantities of Bahia leaf in 1947.

On December 1, Bahia stocks of packed tobacco, available for export, were estimated at 33 million pounds, of which about one-half was unsold. The outlook for the profitable disposal of the remaining unsold stocks was clouded by a shortage of foreign exchange for tobacco purchases.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTS

ARGENTINE FRUIT CROP DAMAGED BY FREEZE

Despite the occurrence of freezing temperatures in the Rio Negro Valley, the 1947 production of apples, pears and other deciduous tree fruits in Argentina is expected at least to equal the 1946 crop. Revised estimates of the 1946 production of the various fruits in Argentina are: apples 6,575,000 bushels; pears 4,158,000 bushels; peaches 155,200 tons; plums 26,000 tons; cherries 2,000 tons; and quinces 18,700 tons.

The revised estimates for apples show an increase of 42 percent over the earlier forecast and for pears, 13 percent above the crop expected during the growing season. Production estimates for the other fruits show only very slight change from the earlier forecasts. The extent and intensity of the freeze this season is reported to be about the same as in the 1946-47 season.

During the period, July 1, 1946- June 30, 1947, the United States imported a total of 179,000 bushels of pears of which 145,000 bushels were from Argentina. Because of the occurrence of the Mediterranean fruit fly, Argentine pears destined for the United States during the current season must be subjected to cold treatment under the supervision of technicians from the U. S. Department of Agriculture.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

(Continued from Page 449)

FRENCH CEREAL SOWINGS SHOW SOME INCREASE

French sowings of wheat, rye, barley, oats and meslin as of December 1, 1947 were estimated at 12,466,000 acres compared with 12 099,000 on January 1, 1946 and 9,297,000 on January 1, 1945, according to the French Ministry of Agriculture.

While the areas sown to wheat and rye fall short of the Government's planting goals for the 1948 crop, they represent increases compared with sowings at the same date in 1946, it was stated. When compared with sowings as of January 1, 1946, the December 1 estimates show substantial increases for all grains except wheat, which is slightly under that estimate.

FRENCH SEEDINGS OF GRAIN FOR SPECIFIED DATES

Grain	Sowings As Of Dates Specified		
	Jan. 1, 1945	Jan. 1, 1946	Dec. 1, 1947
	Acres	Acres	Acres
Wheat	6,908,000	9,461,000	9,452,000
Rye	834,000	943,000	1,189,000
Barley	357,000	383,000	427,000
Oats	1,144,000	1,246,000	1,324,000
Meslin	54,000	66,000	74,000
Total	9,297,000	12,099,000	12,456,000

COTTON (Continued from Page 450)

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices of certain foreign growths and qualities in specific markets

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1947	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
Alexandria		Kantar			
Ashmouni, Good	12-18	99.05 lbs.	Tallari	47.00	39.22
Ashmouni, F.G.F.	"	"	"	43.75	36.50
Giza 7, Good	"	"	"	51.50	42.97
Giza 7, F.G.F.	"	"	"	(not quoted)	
Karnak, Good	"	"	"	56.50	47.14
Karnak, F.G.F	"	"	"	53.50	44.64
Bombay		Candy			
Jarila, Fine	"	784 lbs.	Rupee	475.00	18.28
Broach, Fine	"	"	"		
Sind American, Fine	"	"	"	600.00	23.10
Punjab " 289-F, Fine	"	"	"	690.00	26.56
Kampala, East African	"	"	"	920.00	35.41
Buenos Aires		Metric ton			
Type B	12-19	2204.6 lbs	Peso	2,590.00	34.98
Lima		Sp. quintal			
Tanguis, Type 5	12-18	101.4 lbs.	Sol	167.00	25.33
Pima, Type 1	"	"	"	198.00	30.04
Recife		Arroba			
Mata, Type 5	12-19	33.07 lbs.	Cruzeiro	130.00	21.39
Sertao, Type 5	"	"	"	135.00	22.21
Sao Paulo					
Sao Paulo, Type 5	"	"	"	179.50	29.53
Torreon		Sp. quintal			
Middling, 15/16"	"	101.4 lbs.	Peso	137.00	27.80

Compiled from weekly cables from representatives abroad.